



*Jinie Hineline (left) and Dot Wrey, volunteers for Friends of the Library examine the stacks of newly donated books prior to placing them up for sale. Donated book sales assist the library with new acquisitions.*



*Mayor Pro Tem Rick Mueller of the Sierra Vista City Council (left) and William Armbruster, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment exchange copies of the agreement that formalizes the library partnership between the two levels of government before a gathering of city and fort officials.*

*A Fort Huachuca Soldier gets help from one of the Sierra Vista Library staff members.*



# Library

## Department of Army, Sierra Vista celebrate new partnership

Story and photos by Michael Collins  
Scout Staff

The City of Sierra Vista and the Department of the Army kicked off their newest partnership by hosting an informal open house Monday at the Sierra Vista Library. Army officials and leaders of the local community signed a historic agreement that simultaneously improves library services for Soldiers, Family members and citizens of the community at a reduced cost to both government entities. The open house was a way to introduce these individuals to the services the library can provide.

William Armbruster, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment and Mayor Pro Tem Rick Mueller of the Sierra Vista City Council officiated the ceremonies.

"This is a historic event, something very unique in partnering with a community for an arrangement like this," said Armbruster.

"Our aim in doing so is to provide the best level of service and ensure a highest quality of life available for our Soldiers and their Families."

Fort Huachuca and the City of Sierra Vista first discussed a library partnership as funds for garrison operations were stretched thin due to the Global War on Terrorism. A private contractor who did an assessment study recommended streamlining operations. Congressional approval of this initiative was authorized and, as a result, the Fort has now closed its general purpose library and will provide \$65,000 annually to the City of Sierra Vista.

"Thorough studies were done that showed we could do a lot better," said Armbruster. "The library at Fort Huachuca was understaffed and underutilized. We thought we could improve the level of service by entering into this partnership. I think we are gaining a great deal."

Inter-governmental partnerships are not new phenomena. For example, the Honolulu International Airport is also the runway for the Air Force's Hickam Field. The same holds true for Libby Army Air Field and the Sierra Vista Municipal Airport.

The library partnership is one of the mutually advantageous agreements Fort Huachuca has established with neighboring communities. Others include the golf course, fire services and the soon-to-be-implemented waste water management with Huachuca City.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, members of the library staff were on hand to assist in obtaining library cards, provide informal tours, story readings for children, refreshments, and door prizes. A city bus was parked in the front of the library with transit staff distributing schedules, showing maps, and letting folks know how they can catch a bus from on Post to the library. Volunteers from the Friends of the Library were there and had their book store open as well.

"This arrangement is great," said Maj. Italia Carson, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion. "I always try to use the library in the local community and it is nice for the community to pitch in and help out."

"We coexist so close together that we are glad that the Soldiers and their Families are going to be even more part of our community," said Carla Kazsimer of the Sierra Vista Library.

The Sierra Vista Library has gone through multiple transformations over the years. The first was the founding by a handful of volunteers in 1959. Back then the City of Sierra Vista was two years old and had no public library. Over the next 40 years the public library continued to grow with the partnership with the Fort as the most recent metamorphosis.

The current location is a 32,000-sq. ft. building on 2600 E. Tacoma St. The book collection has nearly 100,000 volumes to appeal to a variety of interests for people of all ages. The library also offer CDs, DVDs, books on tape, newspapers, magazines, and a variety of online databases.

For more information about the Sierra Vista Library, visit [www.ci.sierra-vista.az.us/svlibrary](http://www.ci.sierra-vista.az.us/svlibrary) on the Web or call 458-4225.



**Through the partnership with Sierra Vista, Fort Huachuca Soldiers and Family members should receive the highest quality library services.**

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William Armbruster  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army  
for Installations and Environment



**(Above and below) The Desert Swing Big Band plays for patrons outside the Sierra Vista Library Monday bringing tunes from yesteryear to the local community.**

